III—*cont.*

MOTIONS ON THE BUDGET FOR 1928-29—*cont.*

DEMAND XXIII—CIVIL VETERINARY SERVICES.

* The hon. Mr. M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar :—" On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I move

> '*that Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rs.* 8·37 *lakhs under Demand XXIII—Civil Veterinary Services.*' "

* The hon. the President :—" The question is that Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rs. 8·37 lakhs under Demand XXIII—Civil Veterinary Services."

3-30 p.m. * Mr. S. Arpudaswami Udayar :—" Mr. President, Sir, I beg to move

> '*that the allotment of Rs.* 3,75,300 *for touring establishments be reduced by Rs.* 100'

to urge the need for more dispensaries at centres within easy reach of the villagers and for more touring assistants to treat their cattle.

" Sir, the other day I spoke of cattle being the wealth of the agriculturist. This morning, I am glad to find Mr. Congreve seconding me and also stating that he was very sorry to find that the poor specimens of the cattle he has come across in several places really did not very much contribute to the wealth of the province. Whatever it may be, even the wretched specimens of cattle that the agriculturist has for carrying on his operations must be very carefully attended to. The hon. the Minister himself, when he moved the demand for more serum for inoculation against rinderpest, felt that this epidemic was the cause of very great mortality of the cattle, especially in the villages. And my object in tabling this token cut, Sir, is to urge upon the Government the need for having certain hospitals in taluks within easy reach of the villagers and of the people generally in the rural areas.

" With regard to almost all these questions, the one thing that stands in the way of the good intentions of the Government and of their activities not materializing or bearing fruit is the fact of illiteracy and want of education. The villagers, especially those in the remote villages, far away from the trunk roads and railway stations, have not the slightest idea of what is done by Government for their own good to enable them to carry on their work satisfactorily with profit to themselves and those dependent on them. Therefore, I think that more funds ought to be allotted for this department and certain dispensaries should be started not in the big centres but in certain taluks within easy reach of the people in the rural areas.

" Again, Sir, it is necessary that we should have more touring assistants. That again is a question of a more liberal allotment. I am sorry that hon. Members who have also tabled motions recommending the appointment of touring assistants at least one for each taluk have not pressed them. But, Sir, these are really very beneficial to the agriculturist and unless something is done to see that all the benefits which this department exists for conferring on the agriculturist are extended to them, I think there will be no hope of a great progress being possible in this direction.

" I have already spoken, Sir, of the great havoc wrought by rinderpest, and I have also drawn the attention of the House to the fact that the old resources namely of the villagers resorting to an expert in the field of cattle disease is failing them, because with the death of many of these experts also,

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the recipes have vanished. So that the ryots have to depend more or less on themselves. Unless therefore they are made to realize the fact that there are dispensaries for them and they can, if they take the trouble of taking the cows down to the hospital, get some relief, and efforts are made to impress on the head of the department that some more touring assistants ought to be immediately appointed and deputed to infected places to study the nature of the disease and supply the remedy, a great deal of havoc will continue to be wrought.

"Now, all that implies the existence of a large staff. Sir, recently I heard of an attempt made by some gentlemen of the Tanjore district to start an insurance company to insure cattle. Although it does not come under this subject, that is one way of advertising the fact that villagers must join these insurance societies and the existence of these insurance societies will at least result in more touring assistants being employed by them in order that this disease may be arrested from a business point of view. So, for these reasons, Sir, I press on the hon. Minister the urgent need for more touring assistants and more dispensaries being located at centres within easy reach of the villagers."

*Mr. V. I. Muniswami Pillai:—"Mr. President, Sir, the present safeguards afforded to the cultivators and ryots by way of veterinary assistance is not adequate. In the Administration Report for 1926–27, it is stated that Nilgiris was one of the districts that suffered severely by rinderpest. Coming as I do from the Nilgiris, I know, Sir, that many of the cultivators and shepherds had to pay a heavy toll to the rinderpest. The Mover of this motion has clearly stated that provision must be made for more veterinary assistants to tour round the districts. I think it is high time that it is done. Apart from that, Sir, even in dispensaries enough supply of serum is not kept. In the recent outbreak I know that the main dispensary at Ootacamund had not enough serum to meet the demand. Sir, I understand that the system of serum-alone inoculation is not very successful. The other method they used, viz., the serum-simultaneous method, is more effective. But in the absence of the serum, I do not think they can do anything. As the agriculturists mainly depend on the cattle, if the cattle were to be carried away by this outbreak of rinderpest, it is a sad thing. Apart from there not having enough manure to manure their fields, they are losing heavily by purchasing new cattle. I know, Sir, shepherds who live on the produce given by cows had to fare badly in the recent outbreak of rinderpest. So, I request the hon. the Minister in charge to make adequate provision so that all the dispensaries may be supplied with the necessary serum required for the serum-simultaneous method of inoculation and to depute as many veterinary assistants as possible to tour round the district to safeguard the interests of the cultivators."

* Mr. M. V. Gangadhara Siva:—"Mr. President, the cattle form the backbone of the agriculturist. As such Government should take steps to safeguard the interests of the cattle. The present system of veterinary help is not quite satisfactory on account of not having many assistants. Mr. President, especially in the Ceded Districts, the condition of the cattle is very bad. They die especially in summer season and the veterinary establishment which is located in the centre of the district is not able to come and attend to the urgent needs of the villagers. The Minister who

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is in charge of the subject should start this work in his tours throughout the Presidency and I am sure this would be a good means to start the relief work. Sir, the Minister in charge of this portfolio has to take care of these poor animals and I am sure that he would start with a good work as a good omen and provide as many veterinary assistants as possible in every centre."

* The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—" Sir, the object of the Government is to have one dispensary for each taluk in the near future. At present there are not enough dispensaries in the Presidency. Twelve dispensaries are provided for this year and twelve will be sanctioned for each year hereafter.

" We want more trained hands to run the dispensaries and as I had already said the other day, we want more men to undergo training in the Veterinary College. With a view to have more men, we are increasing the number of stipends from 15 to 40. As we get more men, we hope to run more dispensaries. Where there are no dispensaries, duly qualified veterinary surgeons are stationed to do relief work during outbreaks. If there are no outbreaks, they run taluk dispensaries in large villages for a number of months. Therefore we are trying our best to see that the Veterinary department does useful work in the interior villages also.

" As regards the serum method propounded by the other hon. Member, I have already stated, Sir, that the serum-simultaneous method is a more complicated one, which can be done only by efficient and skilled surgeons. As time goes on, we will be able to get more skilled men from the College and we hope to introduce this new method at a very early date."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Does the hon. Member press the motion ? "

Mr. S. ARPUDASWAMI UDAYAR :—" No, Sir."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

* Mr. A. B. SHETTY :—" Mr. President, Sir, I beg to move

'*that the allotment of Rs.* 2,72,100 *for hospitals and dispensaries be reduced by Rs.* 100'

to draw the attention of the Government to the need for extending the work of the Veterinary department and to the grievances of the veterinary surgeons."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member can move only the latter part."

* Mr. A. B. SHETTY :—" Yes, Sir. I find from the report, Sir, that the Veterinary College does not attract sufficient number of students. In 1926–27, only eleven people graduated from the Veterinary College, that is, six men short of the number required for the year 1927–28. The reason alleged for this is that there was a reduction in the number of stipends given to these people and accordingly it has been proposed that the number of stipends should be increased. The number of stipends has probably already been increased. The real causes of the unpopularity of the Veterinary College seem, however, to be different. The pay and prospects of the veterinary subordinates are not attractive enough. The training given at the college is rather short. I believe the subject of extending the

course in the Veterinary College from three years to four years is under consideration. The affiliation of the Veterinary College to the Madras University was proposed by the Veterinary Graduates Association several years ago. The Veterinary Advisor to the Government also made mention of it in his evidence before the Royal Commission on Agriculture.

" It would be well, Sir, if the Veterinary College is affiliated to the Madras University, at least when the course is extended to four years. Such affiliation would raise the importance of the veterinary science and the veterinary profession and give it greater dignity. The veterinary subordinates are, as I said, low-paid and they are discontented with their lot. If we compare the salaries given to them with the salaries of subordinates in other departments, we find that they compare not at all favourably. In the Punjab as well as in Bombay, the subordinates of the Veterinary department get better pay. In the Punjab, they start on Rs. 100 and by increments of Rs. 10, go up to Rs. 300. In Bombay, the veterinary assistants start on Rs. 60 and get a maximum of Rs. 140, by increments of Rs. 4. In the case of veterinary inspectors in Bombay, the salary is Rs. 150—225. But here, the starting pay of veterinary assistants is only Rs. 60 and the maximum is Rs. 120. The chances of subordinates to rise above this pay are very rare, as there are only ten posts in the selection grade. No house-rent allowance is given as it was being done formerly. There is little or no scope for private practice. I hope, Sir, that the grievances of these people in the matter of pay and prospects as well as in other matters like the examination at the end of the post-graduate course will receive early consideration at the hands of the hon. the Minister. It is very regrettable to note that this department gets only nine and odd lakhs, and for new expenditure, only Rs. 37,600 has been allotted for the coming year. This is a department, Sir, which requires much more funds and considering the importance of cattle to ryots, it ought to have better claims on the attention of the Government." 3-45 p.m.

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" Sir, I strongly endorse the remarks made by my hon. Friend, Mr. Shetty. Without repeating his arguments, I may draw attention to the passage in the General Administration Report for 1926–27, which states that there were eight vacancies at the end of the year in the subordinate staff, and that skilled men were not available. They cannot attract students to the college, because the service itself is not attractive. The pay of the subordinates is not only very low compared with the pay of subordinates in other sister Presidencies, but very low even compared with the pay of corresponding subordinates in other departments in this Presidency. I shall take, Sir, one service after another. First, in the Registration department, the minimum pay of a Sub-Registrar is Rs. 75 and the maximum is Rs. 200. Recently, after constant agitation carried on by myself and others in this Council, their pay has been fixed, on the recommendation of a sympathetic Inspector-General, to a maximum of Rs. 250. Similarly, in the case of the Deputy and Assistant Tahsildars, the maximum pay has been fixed at Rs. 200. Again, Sub-Inspectors of Police get a maximum of Rs. 150. The maximum pay of Deputy Inspectors of Schools is Rs. 250, and their minimum is Rs. 75. Similarly, the pay of Sub-Assistant Surgeons is Rs. 75—200 and that of agricultural demonstrators Rs. 85—250. The veterinary assistants however get a minimum pay of Rs. 60 and

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their maximum is Rs. 175. The educational training required of these assistant veterinary officers is higher than that required for subordinates of the other departments I have now mentioned.

" The department is carried on unsatisfactorily in other ways also. As regards the serum used, it is a simple waste of Government money, because it is worse than useless. For the past three or four years this House has been urging the adoption of the serums simultaneous method; but now the hon. the Minister comes forward and says that there are no skilled men. There are men available, I know, and if they are given a small training, they will be quite up to the mark. But the service is so unattractive and the pay offered is so low that naturally vacancies cannot be filled up. I hope the hon. the Minister will carefully consider these things. I am told that recently the Government have refused to increase the pay of these officers. I should think that next to the Forest department, this department is very badly managed. They do not look to the wants of the people. Member after Member on both sides of the House has drawn attention to the unsatisfactory nature of the serum used; but the hon. the Finance Member and the hon. the Minister have both turned a deaf ear to our demands. I say that immediate steps should be taken to improve things."

* The hon. the President :—" The hon. Member is repeating his own arguments."

* The Zamindar of Kallikota :—" Mr. President, Sir, I rise to support this motion. The subordinates of this department, after a strenuous and risky study of three years in the Veterinary College, are paid a starting salary of Rs. 60—lowest paid to any professional man of so many years' professional training—and they rise by annual increments of Rs. 4 to the maximum of Rs. 120. 90 per cent of these poor subordinates have to retire on Rs. 60 per month, as their maximum is only Rs. 120 and only 10 per cent reach a maximum salary of Rs. 175 in the selection grade of Rs. 125—5—175. Sir, I wish to compare these subordinates with the medical men. In the Medical department the Sub-Assistant Surgeon is started on Rs 75—5—150 and 15 per cent are allowed a selection grade of Rs. 200. The courses of study in the Madras Veterinary College compare very favourably with those of any medical school. The Veterinary Surgeon has to read comparative medicine and surgery and he has to pass also a riding test. The Government in their anxiety to get cheap Veterinary Surgeons in as short a time as possible have cramped the course in the Madras Veterinary College into one of three years and thus made the life of the veterinary student a very strenuous one. The course should be extended to four years. The usefulness of the Veterinary Surgeon to the community, especially to the agricultural community is in no way inferior to that of the medical Sub-Assistant Surgeons. While the latter has got the opportunity of some private practice, the Veterinary Surgeon has none as he has to treat mostly the poor man's cattle. Besides this three years' training, many of the subordinates in the Civil Veterinary Department have undergone an additional course of six months in the Madras Veterinary College, i.e., the post-graduate course. The claims of these people to be brought to the same level as the Sub-Assistant Surgeons have been represented to the Government by successive Veterinary Advisers many a time, but the poor Veterinary Surgeon seems to have had no opportunity of enlisting the sympathy of the hon. Ministers.

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" The subordinates in other Government departments rise up to a maximum of Rs. 250 and Rs. 300 but in this service, the maximum is only Rs. 175. The selection grade is only for 10 per cent of the cadre, whereas, elsewhere the selection grades are 15 per cent at least. For the whole Presidency, the gazetted provincial appointments in the Civil Veterinary department are only about 10 and recently even to these recruitment was made directly, depriving the chances of the subordinates to rise up to the few higher posts that exist.

" The Veterinary Assistant Surgeons in charge of hospitals had been promised in the Madras Veterinary College rent-free quarters and house-rent allowances. The present incumbents enjoyed this privilege for some time in return for services rendered to the in-patients and urgent cases at all hours of the day and night. Now this privilege of rent-free quarters has been withdrawn, but still they have to attend to the in-patients and urgent cases at all hours. This is very unfair. They are made to live in the quarters provided for them by Government within the premises of the hospital and to pay 10 per cent of their salary as rent.

" In short, owing to low minimum and maximum salary, meagre increments, withdrawal of free quarters or house-rent allowances, low percentage of appointments in the selection grade and no chances to rise to the provincial cadre, there is a lot of discontent among the subordinates of the department and it is difficult to expect efficient service from such subordinates.

" To a question asked by my hon. Friend, Mr. A. B. Shetty, in October 1927, the Government replied that the grievances and requests of the Veterinary Assistant Surgeons are under their consideration. I regret that until now no favourable decision has been arrived at. I ask the hon. the Minister what his attitude is towards the poor veterinary subordinates and when he expects to redress their grievances."

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU :—" Sir, I move that the question be now put."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Minister has not yet replied."

* The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—" Mr. President, for the information of the hon. Members of this House, I shall give the scale of pay of these officers in the other provinces.

" In Bombay, the pay of Veterinary Inspectors is Rs. 75—350 and that of Veterinary Assistants Rs. 64—136. There are also Veterinary Inspectors and lecturers there drawing a salary of Rs. 150—5—200. In Bengal, the pay of the Veterinary Assistants is Rs. 50—170 and that of the Inspectors Rs. 120—170. In the United Provinces the Veterinary Assistants are on the scale of Rs. 45—160. In the Punjab, the pay of the Veterinary Assistants is only Rs. 60—90 and that of the Inspectors Rs. 120—170. It would therefore appear that the scale of pay in this Presidency compares favourably with those in the other provinces. The matter also came up previously, some time ago, and nothing seems to have been done. Again, it was pointed out that there was a difference in the courses prescribed for the medical and the veterinary students. The medical course runs up to four years, whereas the veterinary course is only for three years, and the men in the Medical department are therefore much better off than those in the Veterinary department. If the course of study is to be extended over a longer period, and if we are able to have skilled men, certainly their claims will be favourably considered.

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" As regards the serum, referred to by hon. Mr. Saldanha, I have already stated that the serum . . ."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The motion under consideration now relates to the scale of pay of the officers of the Veterinary department."

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA :—" Are they allowed private practice ? "

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—" As regards free quarters, I understand that the officers have applied for Government quarters saying that they should be supplied either with free quarters or should be given house-rent allowance. I shall see what I can do for them in the matter, when a suitable opportunity occurs."

Mr. A. B. SHETTY :—" I do not press my motion, Sir."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU :—" With your permission, Sir, may I know whether we can take advantage of Mr. Slater's presence in the House ? "

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" No, not at all."

* Mr. R. NAGAN GOWDA :—" Mr. President, Sir, I move—

'*that the allotment of* Rs. 8·37 *lakhs for Civil Veterinary Services be reduced by* Rs. 100 '

in order to discuss the question of eliminating the scrub bulls of the country.

" Sir, there are bulls of the poorest quality. There is a good deal to be said on the necessity of the Veterinary department, at least for the purpose of reducing the disease of the cattle ; but the best method to fight the disease is to eliminate bulls of poor quality. At present, Sir, this work is being carried on by the Agricultural department. I want to suggest that this work may be taken up by the Veterinary department, and if the veterinarians carry on this work during their tours, they will be able to eliminate a lot of disease-carrying poor bulls.

p.m. " And for this purpose it is better if strong and pure bred bulls are maintained. And to supplement this, undesirable scrub bulls should be castrated."

* Mr. A. McG. C. TAMPOE :—" Mr. President, if the hon. Member means to render the ordinary village bull innocuous to the herd, it can be done only by surgical operation and we shall take his suggestion into consideration. But to do so on a large scale we have not the necessary staff. And what is more there is no legal authority to enforce it on all scrub bulls, unless we have the consent of the owners and the support of the public."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

The question that the Government be granted a sum not exceeding 8·37 lakhs under Demand XXIII—Civil Veterinary Services was put to vote and carried and the grant was made.